

# Tennessee Comprehensive School Counseling *Implementation Exemplars Initiative* Overview & Application Instructions: 2017-18

The State Board of Education approved in October 2016 a revised [model of school counseling programs](#) that includes new school counseling standards. This model represents what components a school counseling program should contain and serves as an organizational tool to identify and prioritize the elements necessary for program implementation. It will ensure that all Tennessee students have access to high quality school counseling services. School systems and local schools across Tennessee are expected to use this model as a framework for developing their own school counseling programs based on the assessed needs of their communities.

This revised School Counseling Model and Standards policy is expected to be fully implemented at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year. To support planning and preparation for full statewide implementation, the Tennessee Department of Education (department) seeks to identify a cohort of schools and districts who are ready to begin implementation during the 2017-18 school year. These *Implementation Exemplars* will provide research-based strategies, policies, knowledge, and data that will serve as effective practices and promising practices for all Tennessee schools and districts to use as they plan for implementation of the model in the 2018-19 school year.

## Expected Outcomes

The department is launching this initiative in order to do the following:

- identify promising practices, collect templates and exemplar materials, and document strategies for overcoming challenges in implementation of the revised model and standards;
- gather data on the impact of the revised model;
- develop regional experts to assist with facilitation of training and capacity-building in the future; and
- provide technical assistance to ensure effective implementation for committed schools/districts.

## Participants

Schools and districts who apply for the *Implementation Exemplars* initiative will fall into one of two categories: (1) consortium participants or (2) early adopter participants. Selections of participating schools will include representation from the following:

- each of the eight CORE regions (1-3 schools per region)
- all three grade bands (elementary, middle, and high)
- a variety of demographics and size (including rural, suburban, and urban communities)

### ***Model Program Consortium Participants***

Consortium Participants are schools/districts who are ready to fully implement the revised school counseling model and standards in the 2017-18 school year. Districts and school leaders must have a strong understanding of the model and support full implementation. School counselors must have a strong understanding of the model, the revised student standards, and how these will be implemented. The department will provide comprehensive technical support to all consortium participants throughout the first year of implementation (2017-18).

Consortium participants will sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) **by May 19**, committing to the following:

- Developing a comprehensive school counseling model, as defined by the state board, including reassigning responsibilities that are not included in the model program.
- Selecting an implementation team to attend a two-day department-facilitated training **June 8-9, 2017** in Nashville.
- Participating in monthly conference calls/webinars with other program members.
- Submitting implementation plans, including model documents (for example, *Program Management Agreement*), to the department for review and feedback.
- Hosting department staff for school visits and observations.
- Presenting lessons learned and promising practices at regional school counselor collaborative meetings, professional development workshops, and state conferences.
- Collecting data related to counseling program goals demonstrating the impact of implementation of the revised school counseling model.
- Submitting, upon successful implementation of the counseling model, an application for American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) distinction as a high quality, effective school counseling program.

### ***Early Adopter Participants***

Early Adopter participants are schools who are ready to move forward with implementation of the revised school counseling model and standards in the 2017-18 school year, but who may not have the ability yet to participate in all of the activities outlined for the consortium participants, as listed above. District and school administrators must support the revised school counseling model. School counselors must have a strong understanding of the model. Early Adopter participants will not be required to sign an MOU or submit program documentation for review.

Early Adopter participants will do the following:

- participate in monthly conference call(s) and/or webinar(s) with consortium members,
- utilize implementation resources and communications, and
- present lessons learned and promising practices at regional school counselor collaborative meetings.

## Selection Process

All interested schools and districts must complete an application to be considered for the *Implementation Exemplars* initiative. Schools must also complete a [Program Audit](#) and submit the results in the application. A completed application will also include a statement of support from the school counselor and school administrator. Districts who complete applications should include a letter of support from the director of schools, school counseling supervisor, a school counselor and a school administrator. Applications must be completed and transmitted by **5 p.m. (CST), Friday, April 14**. Applications can be accessed [here](#). Selected schools and districts will be notified of their status in early May 2017. For additional information, contact [School.Counseling@tn.gov](mailto:School.Counseling@tn.gov).